

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 08113 01 OF 02 211202Z

44

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CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ERDA-05 IO-13 NASA-01 NAS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7916

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 8113

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SUBJ: INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER (IATC)

REF: STATE 177008

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY VIEWS IATC AS POSITIVE INITIATIVE IF DIRECTED AT UPGRADING CAPABILITY OF LA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO SERVE INDUSTRIAL NEEDS. BRAZIL HAS CONSIDERABLE SPECTRUM OF SUCH INSTITUTIONS COMPETENT ENOUGH TO BENEFIT FROM APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE OF US EXPERTISE. NEED FOR SUCH LINKAGES EXCEEDS WHAT GOB PROBABLY WILL OR COULD SPEND, UNDER PRESENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, FOR DOLLAR REIMBURSABLE SERVICES. IATC COULD BE PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE TO OAS TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM IF SET UP INDEPENDENTLY OF OAS. END SUMMARY.

2. ROLE OF IATC: WE BELIEVE SUCH A CENTER COULD PLAY A VERY POSITIVE ROLE IN ASSISTING THE UPGRADING OF RESEARCH CAPABILITIES AT EXISTING BRAZILIAN TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES. THOSE INSTITUTES, ATTACHED TO THE FEDERAL OR STATE
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 08113 01 OF 02 211202Z

GOVERNMENTS, WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT

IF NOT DOMINANT ROLE IN TECHNOLOGY FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRY FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE. THE PROGRESS BEING MADE THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF US INSTITUTIONS TO THE INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH (IPT), THE INSTITUTE FOR FOOD TECHNOLOGY (ITAL), ETC, OF THE STATE OF SAO PAULO, SUPPORTED BY THE USAID S AND T LOAN, CONTINUES TO DEMONSTRATE THE NEED AND UTILITY OF THIS APPROACH. THE IATC COULD SERVE AS A LINK TO ARRANGE AND FUND SUCH ASSISTANCE, ASSUMING THAT THERE WOULD BE ADDITIONAL DOLLAR FUNDING AVAILABLE TO IT FOR EXPENDITURE IN BRAZIL ABOVE THAT WHICH THE GOB MIGHT ITSELF SPEND FOR RE-IMBURSEABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES IN THE US.

3. SUMMARY OF BETTER S AND T INSTITUTIONS IN SELECTED FIELDS: THE BRAZILIAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (CNPQ) CREATED SEVERAL WORKING GROUPS ON 1974 FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING THE QUALITY OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS OF A LARGE NUMBER OF BRAZILIAN INSTITUTIONS AND IDENTIFYING THE FIRST-RATE INSTITUTIONS WHICH SHOULD RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION BY THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS SURVEYED WERE THOSE WHICH HAD BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE CNPQ AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, AS WELL AS WITH THE NATIONAL BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (BNDE), AND THE FINANCING INSTITUTION FOR STUDIES AND PROJECTS (FINEP). THESE TWO LATTER FINANCING INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE CENTERS IN BRAZIL (CALLED POST-GRADUATE CENTERS HERE). THE INSTITUTIONS SURVEYED WERE GENERALLY THOSE WHICH BELONG TO THE PROGRAM OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES, COORDINATED BY THE CNPQ. ALTHOUGH THE SURVEY WAS COMPLETED AT THE END OF 1974, CNPQ SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT MOST OF THE DATA CONTAINED IN IT ARE STILL VALID, AND HAVE NOT CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY. A NEW SURVEY IS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED, BUT ITS RESULTS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE BEFORE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER 1976. THE BRAZILIAN INSTITUTIONS GENERALLY CONSIDERED BY THE CNPQ TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 08113 01 OF 02 211202Z

FIRST-RATE IN THE AREA OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS ARE:

A. CHEMISTRY: (ORGANIC, INORGANIC, ANALYTICAL AND PHYSICAL-CHEMISTRY) MILITARY INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING (IME), CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO (PUC), UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA (UNB), FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF MINAS GERAIS (UFMG), FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF BAHIA (UFBA)

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF CEARA (UFC), FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO (UFRJ), FEDERAL RURAL UNIVERSITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO (UFRRJ), STATE UNIVERSITY OF CAMPINAS (UNICAMP) AND UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO.

B. AEROSPACE ENGINEERING (AERODYNAMICS, AIR TRANSPORTATION, AERONAUTICS INFRASTRUCTURE, AEROSPACE STRUCTURES, AEROSPACE PROPULSION, PROJECTS AND METEOROLOGY, RESEARCH, PROJECTS, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF AIRCRAFT AND ROCKETS, AS WELL AS COMPONENTS FOR OTHER AEROSPACE VEHICLES): AERONAUTICS TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE (ITA). THIS WAS THE ONLY INSTITUTION ASSESSED, BECAUSE THE MACKENZIE UNIVERSITY IN SAO PAULO AND THE SPACE RESEARCH (INPE) OF THE CNPQ WHICH ALSO OPERATE IN THE SPACE RESEARCH AREA, WERE INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE CATEGORY.

C. APPLIED MATHEMATICS (LINEAR AND NON-LINEAR FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS, MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS AND ECONOMICS, NUMERICAL ANALYSIS, CONTROL THEORY AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH): UNICAMP, INSTITUTE OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS (IMPA), UFRJ, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF PERNAMBUCO (UFPE), UNB, USP, PUC, UNIVERSITY OF SAO CARLOS (USC).

D. COMPUTER SCIENCE: UFMG, UFPB, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL (UFRGS), ITA, DATA PROCESSING CENTER (SERPRO), UFRJ/COPPE, PUC, POLYTECHNICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO/DIGITAL SYSTEM LABORATORY (EPUS/LSD, USP, UFRJ).

E. ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (POWER, ELECTRONICS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, SYSTEMS): POLYTECHNICAL SCHOOL OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF PARAIBA (UPFPB), LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BRASIL 08113 01 OF 02 211202Z

COORDINATION FOR POST-GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ENGINEERING (COPPE) OF THE UFRJ, IME, PUC, ITA, POLYTECHNICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO (EPUSP), UNICAMP, ENGINEERING SCHOOL OF SAO CARLOS (EESC), UNB, FEDERAL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING OF ITAJUBA (EFEI), FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF SANTA CATARINA (UFSC).

F. MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (FLUIDS AND HEAT, SOLID MATERIALS, THERMODYNAMICS, MECHANICAL PROJECTS, PROCESSES, MATERIALS): COPPE/UFRJ, PUC/RJ, FUSC, ITA, UNICAMP, EPUSP, EESC, EFEI, IME.

G. METALURGICAL ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING OF MATERIALS: UFMG, EPUSP/IPT, EESC, MINAS METALURGY SCHOOL OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF OURO PRETO (EMM-UFOP)

PUC/RJ, COPPE/UFRJ, IME:

H. CHEMICAL ENGINEERING (ENCOMPASSING A BROAD SPECTRUM OF NATURAL PHENOMENA AS THEY OCCUR IN PHYSICAL-CHEMICAL PROCESSES): EPUSP, UFRJ (CHEMISTRY SCHOOL, COPPE).

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 08113 02 OF 02 211313Z

44

ACTION OES-06

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 8113

I. PHYSICS AND APPLIED PHYSICS: BRAZILIAN CENTER FOR PHYSICS RESEARCH (CBPF), INSTITUTE OF ATOMIC ENERGY (IEA), INSTITUTE OF SPACE RESEARCH (INPE), ITA, NUCLEBRAS, NUCLEOUS FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND RESEARCH (NEPEC), INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING (IEN), UNB, UNICAMP, PUC/RJ, MARING STATE UNIVERSITY (UEM), UFBA, UFCE, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF GOIAS (UFGO) UFMG, UFPB, UFPR, UFPE, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF RIO GRANDE DO NORTE (UFRGN), UFRGS, UFRJ, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF SANTA CATARINA (UFSC), FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF SAO CARLOS (UFSC), USP.

APART FROM THE ABOVE LIST OF INSTITUTIONS, ALL OF WHICH ARE CONNECTED WITH GRADUATE PROGRAMS, THE FINANCING INSTITUTION FOR STUDIES AND PROJECTS (FINEP) HAS ALSO PREPARED A LIST OF FIRST-RATE RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS, MOST OF WHICH ARE NOT LINKED TO GRADUATE TEACHING

ACTIVITIES. ALL OF THEM ARE DEVOTED TO APPLIED RESEARCH AND HAVE RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM FINEP, AFTER CAREFUL EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF THEIR WORK. THOSE INSTITUTIONS ARE: FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE STATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 08113 02 OF 02 211313Z

(CIENTEC): COAL, FOOD, METAL-MECHANICS, GEOLOGY, GEOTECNEC AND CIVIL CONSTRUCTION; CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF BAHIA (CEPED): FOOD, METALLURGY, ENVIRONMENT, CORROSION AND TECHNOLOGICAL ESSAYS, PETROCHEMISTRY, AND TRAINING OF PERSONNEL; INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH OF SAO PAULO (IPT: CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, METALLURGY, MINERALS, GEOLOGY, CIVIL ENGINEERING, LUMBER, NAVAL ENGINEERING AND FERTILIZERS; FOODE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF SAO PAULO (ITAL): FOOD, CENTER FOR ELECTRICAL RESEARCH (CEPEL) OF RIO DE JANEIRO: ELECTRICAL ENERGY; CENTER OF RESEARCH OF PETROBRAS (CENPES): PETROLEUM; IME: TRAINING OF PERSONNEL IN SEVERAL AREAS SUCH AS MECHANICS, METALLURGY, NUCLEAR ENGINEERING; INSTITUTE OF HIGHWAY RESEARCH (IPR): HIGHWAY RESEARCH; ITA: ELECTRONICS, COMPUTATION, AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING; TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF PERNAMBUCO (ITEP): MECHANICS OF SOILS, LUMBER, CERAMICS, FOOD; INSTITUTE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES (IRN): OF MARANHAO: NATURAL RESOURCES; RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE AMAZON (INPA): EDUCATION, BIOLOGY, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, AGRONOMY; TECHNICAL CENTER OF MINAS GERAIS (CETEC): MINERALS, METALLURGY, FOOD, INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL PROCESSES, ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS; NAVAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IPQM) OF RIO DE JANEIRO: OCEANO-GRAPHYT AND AQUACULTURE.

ALL OF THE INSTITUTIONS IN PARA 3 ARE WORTH VISITING. ALL HAVE FUNDING PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. THE GLOBAL FUNDING ASSOCIATED WITH NEW PROGRAMS OF THE SECOND BASIC PLAN FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (II PBDCT) WILL AVERAGE APPROXIMATELY DOLS 760 MILLION PER YEAR OVER THREE YEARS OF 1975, 1976 AND 1977. DISBURSEMENT WILL BE MADE APPROXIMATELY AS FOLLOWS: BY FEDERAL MINISTRIES - 44 PERCENT, SPECIAL S/T FUNDS (CNPQ, FINEP, BNDE AND CAPES); 32 PERCENT; STATE AND OTHER NON FEDERAL FUNDS - 20 PERCENT; AND FROM FOREIGNS SOURCES - 4 PERCENT. COMMENT: THE NEW CNPQ HAS BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES THAN NSF WITH A GREATER EMPHASIS AS PART OF THE PLANNING MINISTRY, ON APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATION OF S AND T TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. END COMMENT.
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PAGE 03 BRASIL 08113 02 OF 02 211313Z

THE CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN BRAZIL, HOWEVER, HAVE REPORTEDLY LED TO A SITUATION IN WHICH FUND ALLOCATIONS TO RESEARCH CENTERS HAVE BEEN BELOW THE BUDGET AMOUNT AND, IN SOME, CASES, MAINLY NOMINAL.

4. THERE ARE VERY FEW GOVERNMENTAL INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONSULTING INSTITUTES, TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION CENTERS AND STANDARD AND QUALITY CONTROL INSTITUTES IN BRAZIL. THEY ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE WEAK BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. EXCEPTION IS MADE FOR THE TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IPT) IN SAO PAULO, AND THE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE (INT) IN RIO DE JANEIRO, WHICH ARE RELATIVELY GOOD BY BRAZILIAN STANDARDS. CONSULTING AND INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES ARE OFFERED BY SEVERAL BRAZILIAN SUBSIDIARIES OF US COMPANIES.

5. THE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY PRESENT SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BRAZILIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS BY USG AGENCIES, ALTHOUGH NASA, NAF, NAS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO BRAZILIAN INSTITUTIONS IN TERMS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION. THE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE EITHER OF ANY MAJOR ROLE PLAYED BY INTERNATIONAL BANKING INSTITUTIONS IN THE AREA OF SUPPORT TO S AND T IN BRAZIL.

6. THE MISSION CAN ENVISAGE A SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR SUCH A CENTER IN STIMULATING LINKAGES AMONG UNIVERSITIES, GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES, AND INDUSTRY. SUCH LINKAGES ARE STILL VERY WEAK IN BRAZIL AND IN LA IN GENERAL. WHETHER GREATER EMPHASIS IN A GIVEN CASE SHOULD BE ON TECHNOLOGY EXPERTISE, ON MANAGEMENT, OR ON MARKETING PROCEDURES SHOULD DEPEND ON THE CONDITIONS OF THE LOCAL INSTITUTION BEING ASSISTED, ACCORDING TO ITS NEEDS.

7. NAS - BOSTID/AID PROGRAMS IN S AND T IN BRAZIL HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS AND WERE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE VERY SUCCESSFUL, SO MUCH SO THAT CERTAIN PROGRAMS ARE CONTINUING UNDER GOB FUNDING. THE CURRENT PROBLEM IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BRASIL 08113 02 OF 02 211313Z

TO FIND US SUPPORT FOR OVERHEAD AND OTHER DOLLAR COSTS OF THE JOINT ACTIVITIES DESIRED BY NAS AND CNPQ.

8. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE POSITION OF THE GOB HAS BEEN ONE OF SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL AND UNENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR THE S AND T DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE OAS, PARTICULARLY THE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ASPECT OF IT. PERHAPS IF THE IATC WERE TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THIS COMBINATION OF PROJECTS AND STUDIES AND SET UP OUTSIDE THE OAS BUREAUCRACY, THERE WOULD BE A REAL GAIN. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH CNPQ ABOUT THE IATC CONCEPT, THEIR VIEW WAS THAT IT WAS UNOBJECTIONABLE POLITICALLY BUT NO NEW SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE GOB COULD BE EXPECTED AND THE PROPOSED CENTER SHOULD OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY OF THE OAS TO AVOID THE POLITICAL INJUNCTIONS WHICH HAVE MARKED ITS OPERATIONS. THE EMBASSY FURTHER BELIEVES THAT IN THE BRAZILIAN CONTEXT A GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONAL ROLE IN TECHNOLOGY IS A VIABLE REALITY AND IT IS ON THEIR ROLE THE IATC SHOULD CONCENTRATE, STAYING OUT OF PRIVATE SECTOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AFFAIRS. END COMMENT.
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